

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/123,145

Applicant(s)

SEKIGUCHI, KENZO

Examiner

Joseph R. Pokrzywa

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 February 2001.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-59 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-59 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment was received on 2/26/01, and has been entered and made of record. Currently, **claims 1 through 59** are pending.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to **claims 1, 13, 25, 36, and 37** have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Objections

3. **Claim 46** is objected to because of the following informalities:
in **claim 46**, line 1, "according to claim 46" should read "according to claim 45".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. **Claims 13, 25, 56, and 57** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

6. **Claim 13** recites the limitation "the transfer destination information" in line 10. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
7. **Claim 25** recites the limitation "the transfer destination information" in line 12. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
8. **Claim 56** recites the limitation "said returning means" in lines 8 and 9, the limitation "said conversion means" in line 11, and the limitation "said instruction reception means" in line 12. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claim.
9. **Claim 57** recites the limitation "said returning means" in line 9, the limitation "said conversion means" in lines 12 and 13, and the limitation "said instruction reception means" in lines 13 and 14. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

10. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

11. **Claims 37, 47 through 50, 54, 55, 58, and 59** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Houghton *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 6,009,153).

Regarding **claim 37**, Houghton discloses a communication apparatus (facsimile 5) comprising means for connecting various types of networks which have unique formats and addresses, respectively (see Fig. 1, PSTN and Internet, as well as "a cellular or PCS network, or

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a combination of wireless and wired telephone networks” as read in column 3, lines 38 through 45), means for receiving information data with destination address data from a transmitting source via the networks (step 210 in Fig. 3, column 6, lines 37 through 54, and column 9, lines 35 through 41), wherein the destination address data is included in a protocol signal (column 7, lines 33 through 47), and means for changing a format of the information data and the destination address data into another format corresponding to another type of network by discriminating the destination address data included in the protocol signal (column 5, line 66 through column 6, line 22, column 6, lines 55 through 65, and column 10, lines 32 through 41).

Regarding *claim 47*, Houghton discloses a communication apparatus (facsimile 5) comprising a means (TLI 125, column 5, lines 48 through 61) for connecting various types of networks which have unique formats and addresses, respectively (see Fig. 1, PSTN and Internet, as well as “a cellular or PCS network, or a combination of wireless and wired telephone networks” as read in column 3, lines 38 through 45), means for receiving information data with destination address data from a transmitting source via the networks (step 210 in Fig. 3, column 6, lines 37 through 43, and column 9, lines 35 through 41), means for returning a message in response to a request from the transmitting source via the networks (step 215 in Fig. 3, column 6, lines 41 through 54), means for receiving an instruction generated based on the message (step 220 in Fig. 3, column 6, lines 55 through 60), and means for changing a format of the information data and the destination address data into another format corresponding to another type of network in accordance with the received instruction (column 5, line 66 through column 6, line 22, column 6, lines 55 through 65, and column 10, lines 32 through 41).

Regarding *claim 48*, Houghton discloses the apparatus discussed above in claim 47, and further teaches that the means for returning returns the message as voice guidance information (column 6, lines 37 through 54).

Regarding *claim 49*, Houghton discloses the apparatus discussed above in claim 47, and further teaches that the means for receiving an instruction receives the instruction by a tone signal (column 6, lines 37 through 65).

Regarding *claim 50*, Bloomfield discloses the apparatus discussed above in claim 49, and further teaches that the tone signal is a DTMF signal (column 6, lines 42 through 47).

Regarding *claim 54*, Houghton discloses a method for a communication apparatus (facsimile 5) comprising connecting various types of networks which have unique formats and addresses, respectively (see Fig. 1, PSTN and Internet, as well as “a cellular or PCS network, or a combination of wireless and wired telephone networks” as read in column 3, lines 38 through 45), receiving information data with destination address data from a transmitting source via the networks (step 210 in Fig. 3, column 6, lines 37 through 54, and column 9, lines 35 through 41), wherein the destination address data is included in a protocol signal (column 7, lines 33 through 47), and changing a format of the information data and the destination address data into another format corresponding to another type of network by discriminating the destination address data included in the protocol signal (column 5, line 66 through column 6, line 22, column 6, lines 55 through 65, and column 10, lines 32 through 41).

Regarding *claim 55*, Houghton discloses a computer program (column 5, lines 13 through 29) for a communication apparatus (facsimile 5) comprising computer readable program code means for connecting various types of networks which have unique formats and addresses,

respectively (see Fig. 1, PSTN and Internet, as well as “a cellular or PCS network, or a combination of wireless and wired telephone networks” as read in column 3, lines 38 through 45), computer readable program code means for receiving information data with destination address data from a transmitting source via the networks (step 210 in Fig. 3, column 6, lines 37 through 54, and column 9, lines 35 through 41), wherein the destination address data is included in a protocol signal (column 7, lines 33 through 47), and computer readable program code means for changing a format of the information data and the destination address data into another format corresponding to another type of network by discriminating the destination address data included in the protocol signal (column 5, line 66 through column 6, line 22, column 6, lines 55 through 65, and column 10, lines 32 through 41).

Regarding *claim 58*, Houghton discloses a computer program (column 5, lines 13 through 29) for a communication apparatus (facsimile 5) comprising computer readable program code means for connecting various types of networks which have unique formats and addresses, respectively (see Fig. 1, PSTN and Internet, as well as “a cellular or PCS network, or a combination of wireless and wired telephone networks” as read in column 3, lines 38 through 45), computer readable program code means for receiving information data with destination address data from a transmitting source via the networks (step 210 in Fig. 3, column 6, lines 37 through 43, and column 9, lines 35 through 41), computer readable program code means for returning a message in response to a request from the transmitting source via the networks (step 215 in Fig. 3, column 6, lines 41 through 54), computer readable program code means for receiving an instruction generated based on the message (step 220 in Fig. 3, column 6, lines 55 through 60), and computer readable program code means for changing a format of the

information data and the destination address data into another format corresponding to another type of network in accordance with the received instruction (column 5, line 66 through column 6, line 22, column 6, lines 55 through 65, and column 10, lines 32 through 41).

Regarding *claim 59*, Houghton discloses a method for a communication apparatus (facsimile 5) comprising connecting various types of networks which have unique formats and addresses, respectively (see Fig. 1, PSTN and Internet, as well as “a cellular or PCS network, or a combination of wireless and wired telephone networks” as read in column 3, lines 38 through 45), receiving information data with destination address data from a transmitting source via the networks (step 210 in Fig. 3, column 6, lines 37 through 43, and column 9, lines 35 through 41), returning a message in response to a request from the transmitting source via the networks (step 215 in Fig. 3, column 6, lines 41 through 54), receiving an instruction generated based on the message (step 220 in Fig. 3, column 6, lines 55 through 60), and changing a format of the information data and the destination address data into another format corresponding to another type of network in accordance with the received instruction (column 5, line 66 through column 6, line 22, column 6, lines 55 through 65, and column 10, lines 32 through 41).

12. **Claims 1 through 10, 13 through 22, 25 through 33, 36 through 43, 45 through 47, and 49 through 59** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bloomfield (U.S. Patent Number 6,025,931).

Regarding *claim 1*, Bloomfield discloses a communication apparatus (fax server 110, seen in Figs. 1, 2, and 13) comprising a means (data network interface 154) for connecting to a computer network (data network 114, column 4, lines 37 through 67), a means (fax comm

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interface 130) for connecting to a public telephone network (public telephone network 108, column 4, lines 5 through 20), a means for receiving facsimile image data from the public telephone network (column 5, line 63 through column 6, line 8, and column 6, lines 46 through 65, and column 18, line 54 through column 19, line 10), a means for receiving transfer destination information (fax interface device ID, E-mail destination address, and check sum) of e-mail data from the public telephone network (steps 1034, 1036, and 1038 in Fig. 11A, column 17, lines 57 through 63), a means for converting the received facsimile image data into an e-mail data format (column 6, line 66 through column 7, line 34, steps 1070 and 1072 in Fig. 11C, and column 19, lines 10 through 37), and a means for designating an e-mail destination of the computer network (E-mail destination address) on the basis of the received transfer destination information (column 18, lines 41 through 54, and column 19, lines 10 through 57), and transmitting the e-mail data converted by the conversion means to a destination designated by the transfer destination information (step 1080 in Fig. 11C, column 19, lines 37 through 45).

Regarding *claim 2*, Bloomfield discloses the apparatus discussed in claim 1 above, and further teaches that the transmission means comprises destination designation means for designating the e-mail destination of the computer network (E-mail destination address) on the basis of the received transfer destination information (column 18, lines 41 through 54, and column 19, lines 10 through 57), and post-office designation means for designating a desired post-office in an e-mail server (E-mail server 112) of the computer network (column 7, line 35 through column 8, line 16).

Regarding *claim 3*, Bloomfield discloses the apparatus discussed in claim 1 above, and further teaches that the transfer destination information and password information (identification

code) are received from the public telephone network (column 6, lines 30 through 59), wherein it is checked if e-mail transfer destination information corresponding to the transfer destination information is set in advance (column 16, lines 35 through 39) and if the received password information matches password information set in advance (step 1048, column 18, lines 17 through 48), and the converted e-mail data is transmitted in accordance with the checking results (column 6, line 47 through column 7, line 7).

Regarding *claim 4*, Bloomfield discloses the apparatus discussed in claim 1 above, and further teaches of a means for registering in advance e-mail address information of the e-mail destination in correspondence with numeral information (column 14, line 44 through column 15, line 60), wherein the transfer destination information is received as numeral information (see Figs. 10 and 10A, column 15, lines 30 through 37), and the address information of the e-mail destination corresponding to the received numeral information is read out from the storage means to designate the e-mail destination (column 14, lines 44 through 56).

Regarding *claim 5*, Bloomfield discloses the apparatus discussed in claim 3 above, and further teaches that the password information is received as numeral information (see Figs. 10 and 10A, column 15, lines 30 through 37, column 16, lines 33 through 39).

Regarding *claim 6*, Bloomfield discloses the apparatus discussed in claim 1 above, and further teaches that the transfer destination information is received by a tone signal (column 5, line 54 through column 6, line 8, and column 10, line 48 through column 11, line 47).

Regarding *claim 7*, Bloomfield discloses the apparatus discussed in claim 6 above, and further teaches that the tone signal is a DTMF signal (column 6, line 63 through column 6, line 5, column 10, line 48 through column 11, line 47, and column 14, lines 36 through 38).

Regarding *claim 8*, Bloomfield discloses the apparatus discussed in claim 1 above, and further teaches of a means for selecting whether the public telephone network is released or facsimile reception via the public telephone network is started (steps 1046 or 1044 in Fig. 11B, column 18, lines 7 through 16), when the transfer destination information and a signal related to a facsimile communication are not received within a prescribed time for monitoring signal reception from the public telephone network after call reception from the public telephone network ("time-out " in step 1042, column 17, line 67 through column 18, line 16).

Regarding *claim 9*, Bloomfield discloses the apparatus discussed in claim 4 above, and further teaches that the transfer destination information is received by a protocol signal of a facsimile communication protocol (column 17, line 53 through column 18, line 66).

Regarding *claim 10*, Bloomfield discloses the apparatus discussed in claim 5 above, and further teaches that the password information is received by a protocol signal of a facsimile communication protocol (column 17, line 53 through column 18, line 66).

Regarding *claim 13*, Bloomfield discloses a method for a communication apparatus (fax server 110, seen in Figs. 1, 2, and 13) connected to a computer network (data network 114, column 4, lines 37 through 67) and a public network (public telephone network 108, column 4, lines 5 through 20), with the communication apparatus (fax server 110) having a facsimile communication function (column 5, line 52 through column 6, line 17), wherein the method comprises the steps of receiving a remote instruction (fax-to-E-mail command, fax interface device ID, E-mail destination address, and check sum) from the public telephone network (steps 1032 through 1038 in Fig. 11A, column 17, lines 53 through 63), receiving facsimile image data from the public telephone network (column 5, line 63 through column 6, line 8, and column 6,

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lines 46 through 65, and column 18, line 54 through column 19, line 10), converting the received facsimile image data into an e-mail data format (column 6, line 66 through column 7, line 34, steps 1070 and 1072 in Fig. 11C, and column 19, lines 10 through 37), and designating an e-mail destination of the computer network (E-mail destination address) in accordance with the received remote instruction (column 17, lines 57 through 63, column 18, lines 41 through 54, and column 19, lines 10 through 57), and transmitting the converted e-mail data to a destination designated by the remote instruction (step 1080 in Fig. 11C, column 19, lines 37 through 45).

Regarding *claim 14*, Bloomfield discloses the method discussed in claim 13 above, and further teaches that the remote instruction includes transfer destination information and password information (identification code) of e-mail data (column 6, lines 30 through 59), it is checked if e-mail transfer destination information corresponding to the transfer destination information is set in advance (column 16, lines 35 through 39) and if the received password information matches password information set in advance (step 1048, column 18, lines 17 through 48), and the converted e-mail data is transmitted in accordance with the checking results (column 6, line 47 through column 7, line 7).

Regarding *claim 15*, Bloomfield discloses the method discussed in claim 14 above, and further teaches of a step of designating the e-mail destination of the computer network (E-mail destination address) on the basis of the received transfer destination information (column 18, lines 41 through 54, and column 19, lines 10 through 57), and designating a desired post-office in an e-mail server (E-mail server 112) of the computer network (column 7, line 35 through column 8, line 16).

Regarding *claim 16*, Bloomfield discloses the method discussed in claim 14 above, and further teaches of registering in advance e-mail address information of the e-mail destination in storage means in correspondence with numeral information (column 14, line 44 through column 15, line 60), and receiving the transfer destination information as numeral information (see Figs. 10 and 10A, column 15, lines 30 through 37), and reading out the address information of the e-mail destination corresponding to the received numeral information from the storage means to designate the e-mail destination (column 14, lines 44 through 56).

Regarding *claim 17*, Bloomfield discloses the method discussed in claim 14 above, and further teaches that the password information is received as numeral information (see Figs. 10 and 10A, column 15, lines 30 through 37, column 16, lines 33 through 39).

Regarding *claim 18*, Bloomfield discloses the method discussed in claim 14 above, and further teaches that the transfer destination information is received by a tone signal (column 5, line 54 through column 6, line 8, and column 10, line 48 through column 11, line 47).

Regarding *claim 19*, Bloomfield discloses the method discussed in claim 14 above, and further teaches that the tone signal is a DTMF signal (column 6, line 63 through column 6, line 5, column 10, line 48 through column 11, line 47, and column 14, lines 36 through 38).

Regarding *claim 20*, Bloomfield discloses the method discussed in claim 14 above, and further teaches of selecting whether the public telephone network is released or facsimile reception via the public telephone network is started (steps 1046 or 1044 in Fig. 11B, column 18, lines 7 through 16), when the transfer destination information and a signal related to a facsimile communication are not received within a prescribed time for monitoring signal reception from

the public telephone network after call reception from the public telephone network (“time-out “ in step 1042, column 17, line 67 through column 18, line 16).

Regarding *claim 21*, Bloomfield discloses the method discussed in claim 14 above, and further teaches that the transfer destination information is received by a protocol signal of a facsimile communication protocol (column 17, line 53 through column 18, line 66).

Regarding *claim 22*, Bloomfield discloses the method discussed in claim 14 above, and further teaches that the password information is received by a protocol signal of a facsimile communication protocol (column 17, line 53 through column 18, line 66).

Regarding *claim 25*, Bloomfield discloses a storage medium (storage 140) which stores a computer program (column 6, lines 18 through 27) executed by a computer of a communication apparatus (fax server 110, seen in Figs. 1, 2, and 13) connected to a computer network (data network 114, column 4, lines 37 through 67) and a public network (public telephone network 108, column 4, lines 5 through 20), with the communication apparatus (fax server 110) having a facsimile communication function (column 5, line 52 through column 6, line 17), wherein the program comprises processing of receiving a remote instruction (fax-to-E-mail command, fax interface device ID, E-mail destination address, and check sum) from the public telephone network (steps 1032 through 1038 in Fig. 11A, column 17, lines 53 through 63), processing of receiving facsimile image data from the public telephone network (column 5, line 63 through column 6, line 8, and column 6, lines 46 through 65, and column 18, line 54 through column 19, line 10), processing of converting the received facsimile image data into an e-mail data format (column 6, line 66 through column 7, line 34, steps 1070 and 1072 in Fig. 11C, and column 19, lines 10 through 37), and processing of designating an e-mail destination of the computer

network (E-mail destination address) in accordance with the received remote instruction (column 17, lines 57 through 63, column 18, lines 41 through 54, and column 19, lines 10 through 57), and transmitting the converted e-mail data to a destination designated by the remote instruction (step 1080 in Fig. 11C, column 19, lines 37 through 45).

Regarding *claim 26*, Bloomfield discloses the medium discussed in claim 25 above, and further teaches that the remote instruction includes transfer destination information and password information (identification code) of e-mail data (column 6, lines 30 through 59), it is checked if e-mail transfer destination information corresponding to the transfer destination information is set in advance (column 16, lines 35 through 39) and if the received password information matches password information set in advance (step 1048, column 18, lines 17 through 48), and the converted e-mail data is transmitted in accordance with the checking results (column 6, line 47 through column 7, line 7).

Regarding *claim 27*, Bloomfield discloses the medium discussed in claim 26 above, and further teaches of a processing of designating the e-mail destination of the computer network (E-mail destination address) on the basis of the received transfer destination information (column 18, lines 41 through 54, and column 19, lines 10 through 57), and designating a desired post-office in an e-mail server (E-mail server 112) of the computer network (column 7, line 35 through column 8, line 16).

Regarding *claim 28*, Bloomfield discloses the medium discussed in claim 26 above, and further teaches of registering in advance e-mail address information of the e-mail destination in storage means in correspondence with numeral information (column 14, line 44 through column 15, line 60), and receiving the transfer destination information as numeral information (see Figs.

10 and 10A, column 15, lines 30 through 37), and reading out the address information of the e-mail destination corresponding to the received numeral information from the storage means to designate the e-mail destination (column 14, lines 44 through 56).

Regarding *claim 29*, Bloomfield discloses the medium discussed in claim 26 above, and further teaches that the password information is received as numeral information (see Figs. 10 and 10A, column 15, lines 30 through 37, column 16, lines 33 through 39).

Regarding *claim 30*, Bloomfield discloses the medium discussed in claim 26 above, and further teaches of receiving the transfer destination information by a DTMF signal (column 6, line 63 through column 6, line 5, column 10, line 48 through column 11, line 47, and column 14, lines 36 through 38).

Regarding *claim 31*, Bloomfield discloses the medium discussed in claim 26 above, and further teaches of selecting whether the public telephone network is released or facsimile reception via the public telephone network is started (steps 1046 or 1044 in Fig. 11B, column 18, lines 7 through 16), when the transfer destination information and a signal related to a facsimile communication are not received within a prescribed time for monitoring signal reception from the public telephone network after call reception from the public telephone network ("time-out " in step 1042, column 17, line 67 through column 18, line 16).

Regarding *claim 32*, Bloomfield discloses the medium discussed in claim 26 above, and further teaches that the transfer destination information is received by a protocol signal of a facsimile communication protocol (column 17, line 53 through column 18, line 66).

Regarding *claim 33*, Bloomfield discloses the medium discussed in claim 26 above, and further teaches that the password information is received by a protocol signal of a facsimile communication protocol (column 17, line 53 through column 18, line 66).

Regarding *claim 36*, Bloomfield discloses a communication system including a communication apparatus (fax server 110, seen in Figs. 1, 2, and 13) which is connected to a computer network (data network 114, column 4, lines 37 through 67) and a public telephone network (public telephone network 108, column 4, lines 5 through 20), with the communication apparatus (fax server 110) having a facsimile communication function (column 5, line 52 through column 6, line 17), the computer network (data network 114) having an e-mail server (email servers 112 or 120), wherein the communication apparatus (fax server 110) receives facsimile image data from the public telephone network (step 1060 in Fig. 11B, column 5, line 63 through column 6, line 8, column 6, lines 46 through 65, and column 18, line 48 through column 19, line 10) upon reception of a remote instruction (fax-to-E-mail command, fax interface device ID, E-mail destination address, and check sum) from the public telephone network (steps 1032 through 1038 in Fig. 11A, column 17, lines 53 through 63), converts the received facsimile image data into an e-mail data format (column 6, line 66 through column 7, line 34, steps 1070 and 1072 in Fig. 11C, and column 19, lines 10 through 37), and transmits the e-mail data by designating an e-mail destination in accordance with received remote instruction (E-mail destination address, column 17, lines 57 through 63, column 18, lines 41 through 54, and column 19, lines 10 through 57), and the e-mail server receives the transmitted e-mail data in a post-office corresponding to the e-mail destination (column 4, lines 37 through 67, and column 5, lines 18 through 51).

Regarding *claim 37*, Bloomfield discloses a communication apparatus (fax server 110) comprising means for connecting various types of networks which have unique formats and addresses, respectively (see Fig. 1, data network 114 and public telephone network 108, column 4, lines 5 through 67), means for receiving information data (fax-to-E-mail command, fax interface device ID, E-mail destination address, and check sum) with destination address data from a transmitting source via the networks (steps 1032 through 1038 in Fig. 11A, column 17, lines 53 through 63), wherein the destination address data is included in a protocol signal (column 16, lines 3 through 59), and means for changing a format of the information data and the destination address data into another format corresponding to another type of network by discriminating the destination address data included in the protocol signal (column 6, line 66 through column 7, line 34, steps 1070 and 1072 in Fig. 11C, and column 19, lines 10 through 37).

Regarding *claim 38*, Bloomfield discloses the apparatus discussed in claim 37 above, and further teaches that the types of networks include a computer network (see Fig. 1).

Regarding *claim 39*, Bloomfield discloses the apparatus discussed in claim 37 above, and further teaches that the types of networks include a public telephone network (see Fig. 1).

Regarding *claim 40*, Bloomfield discloses the apparatus discussed in claim 37 above, and further teaches that the information data is image data in accordance with predetermined image format (column 12, lines 56 through 62, and column 18, lines 41 through 66).

Regarding *claim 41*, Bloomfield discloses the apparatus discussed in claim 37 above, and further teaches that the format changing means changes the format from a predetermined format

to an e-mail format (column 6, line 66 through column 7, line 34, steps 1070 and 1072 in Fig. 11C, and column 19, lines 10 through 37).

Regarding *claim 42*, Bloomfield discloses the apparatus discussed in claim 37 above, and further teaches that the format changing means changes the format from a facsimile format to a predetermined format (column 6, line 66 through column 7, line 34, steps 1070 and 1072 in Fig. 11C, and column 19, lines 10 through 37).

Regarding *claim 43*, Bloomfield discloses a communication apparatus (fax server 110, seen in Figs. 1, 2, and 13) comprising a means (data network interface 154) for connecting to a computer network (data network 114, column 4, lines 37 through 67), a means (fax comm interface 130) for connecting to a public telephone network (public telephone network 108, column 4, lines 5 through 20), a means for receiving facsimile image data from a transmitting source (fax device 106) via the public telephone network (column 5, line 63 through column 6, line 8, and column 6, lines 46 through 65, and column 18, line 54 through column 19, line 10), a means for returning a message in response to a request (fax-to E-mail command, column 17, lines 53 through 57) received from the transmitting source via the public telephone network (column 17, line 61 through column 18, line 48), means for receiving an instruction generated based on the message returned by the returning means (column 18, lines 17 through 40), means for converting the received facsimile image data into an e-mail data format (column 6, line 66 through column 7, line 34, steps 1070 and 1072 in Fig. 11C, and column 19, lines 10 through 37), and a means for transmitting the e-mail data converted by the conversion means in accordance with the instruction received by the instruction reception means (step 1080 in Fig. 11C, column 19, lines 37 through 45).

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Regarding *claim 45*, Bloomfield discloses the apparatus discussed above in claim 43, and further teaches that the instruction reception means receives the instruction by a tone signal (column 5, line 54 through column 6, line 8, and column 10, line 48 through column 11, line 47).

Regarding *claim 46*, Bloomfield discloses the apparatus discussed above in claim 45 (as understood by examiner), and further teaches that the tone signal is a DTMF signal (column 6, line 63 through column 6, line 5, column 10, line 48 through column 11, line 47, and column 14, lines 36 through 38).

Regarding *claim 47*, Bloomfield discloses a communication apparatus (fax server 110) comprising a means for connecting various types of networks which have unique formats and addresses, respectively (see Fig. 1, data network 114 and public telephone network 108, column 4, lines 5 through 67), means for receiving information data (fax-to-E-mail command, fax interface device ID, E-mail destination address, and check sum) with destination address data from a transmitting source via the networks (steps 1032 through 1038 in Fig. 11A, column 17, lines 53 through 63), means for returning a message in response to a request from the transmitting source via the networks (column 18, lines 7 through 56), means for receiving an instruction generated based on the message (column 18, lines 17 through 40), and means for changing a format of the information data and the destination address data into another format corresponding to another type of network in accordance with the received instruction (column 6, line 66 through column 7, line 34, steps 1070 and 1072 in Fig. 11C, and column 19, lines 10 through 37).

Regarding *claim 49*, Bloomfield discloses the apparatus discussed above in claim 47, and further teaches that the means for receiving an instruction receives the instruction by a tone

signal (column 5, line 54 through column 6, line 8, and column 10, line 48 through column 11, line 47).

Regarding *claim 50*, Bloomfield discloses the apparatus discussed above in claim 49, and further teaches that the tone signal is a DTMF signal (column 6, line 63 through column 6, line 5, column 10, line 48 through column 11, line 47, and column 14, lines 36 through 38).

Regarding *claim 51*, Bloomfield discloses the apparatus discussed above in claim 47, and further teaches that the information data is image data in accordance with a predetermined image format (column 12, lines 56 through 62, and column 18, lines 41 through 66).

Regarding *claim 52*, Bloomfield discloses the apparatus discussed above in claim 47, and further teaches that the means for changing the format changes the format from a predetermined format to an e-mail format (column 6, line 66 through column 7, line 34, and column 19, lines 10 through 37).

Regarding *claim 53*, Bloomfield discloses the apparatus discussed above in claim 47, and further teaches that the means for changing a format changes the format from a facsimile format to a predetermined format (column 6, line 66 through column 7, line 34, and column 19, lines 10 through 37).

Regarding *claim 54*, Bloomfield discloses a method for a communication apparatus (fax server 110) comprising connecting various types of networks which have unique formats and addresses, respectively (see Fig. 1, data network 114 and public telephone network 108, column 4, lines 5 through 67), receiving information data (fax-to-E-mail command, fax interface device ID, E-mail destination address, and check sum) with destination address data from a transmitting source via the networks (steps 1032 through 1038 in Fig. 11A, column 17, lines 53 through 63),

wherein the destination address data is included in a protocol signal (column 16, lines 3 through 59), and changing a format of the information data and the destination address data into another format corresponding to another type of network by discriminating the destination address data included in the protocol signal (column 6, line 66 through column 7, line 34, steps 1070 and 1072 in Fig. 11C, and column 19, lines 10 through 37).

Regarding *claim 55*, Bloomfield discloses a computer program (column 6, lines 18 through 27) for a communication apparatus (fax server 110) comprising computer readable program code means for connecting various types of networks which have unique formats and addresses, respectively (see Fig. 1, data network 114 and public telephone network 108, column 4, lines 5 through 67), computer readable program code means for receiving information data (fax-to-E-mail command, fax interface device ID, E-mail destination address, and check sum) with destination address data from a transmitting source via the networks (steps 1032 through 1038 in Fig. 11A, column 17, lines 53 through 63), wherein the destination address data is included in a protocol signal (column 16, lines 3 through 59), and computer readable program code means for changing a format of the information data and the destination address data into another format corresponding to another type of network by discriminating the destination address data included in the protocol signal (column 6, line 66 through column 7, line 34, steps 1070 and 1072 in Fig. 11C, and column 19, lines 10 through 37).

Regarding *claim 56*, Bloomfield discloses a method for a communication apparatus (fax server 110, seen in Figs. 1, 2, and 13) comprising connecting to a computer network (data network 114, column 4, lines 37 through 67), connecting to a public telephone network (public telephone network 108, column 4, lines 5 through 20), receiving facsimile image data from a

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transmitting source (fax device 106) via the public telephone network (column 5, line 63 through column 6, line 8, and column 6, lines 46 through 65, and column 18, line 54 through column 19, line 10), returning a message in response to a request (fax-to E-mail command, column 17, lines 53 through 57) received from the transmitting source via the public telephone network (column 17, line 61 through column 18, line 48), receiving an instruction generated based on the message returned in the returning step (column 18, lines 17 through 40), converting the received facsimile image data into an e-mail data format (column 6, line 66 through column 7, line 34, steps 1070 and 1072 in Fig. 11C, and column 19, lines 10 through 37), and transmitting the e-mail data converted in the converting step in accordance with the instruction received in the instruction reception step (step 1080 in Fig. 11C, column 19, lines 37 through 45).

Regarding *claim 57*, Bloomfield discloses a computer program (column 6, lines 18 through 27) for a communication apparatus (fax server 110, seen in Figs. 1, 2, and 13) comprising computer readable program code means for connecting to a computer network (data network 114, column 4, lines 37 through 67), computer readable program code means for connecting to a public telephone network (public telephone network 108, column 4, lines 5 through 20), computer readable program code means for receiving facsimile image data from a transmitting source (fax device 106) via the public telephone network (column 5, line 63 through column 6, line 8, and column 6, lines 46 through 65, and column 18, line 54 through column 19, line 10), computer readable program code means for returning a message in response to a request (fax-to E-mail command, column 17, lines 53 through 57) received from the transmitting source via the public telephone network (column 17, line 61 through column 18, line 48), computer readable program code means for receiving an instruction generated based on the message

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returned in the returning step (column 18, lines 17 through 40), computer readable program code means for converting the received facsimile image data into an e-mail data format (column 6, line 66 through column 7, line 34, steps 1070 and 1072 in Fig. 11C, and column 19, lines 10 through 37), and computer readable program code means for transmitting the e-mail data converted in the converting step in accordance with the instruction received in the instruction reception step (step 1080 in Fig. 11C, column 19, lines 37 through 45).

Regarding *claim 58*, Bloomfield discloses a method for a communication apparatus (fax server 110) comprising connecting various types of networks which have unique formats and addresses, respectively (see Fig. 1, data network 114 and public telephone network 108, column 4, lines 5 through 67), receiving information data (fax-to-E-mail command, fax interface device ID, E-mail destination address, and check sum) with destination address data from a transmitting source via the networks (steps 1032 through 1038 in Fig. 11A, column 17, lines 53 through 63), returning a message in response to a request from the transmitting source via the networks (column 18, lines 7 through 56), receiving an instruction generated based on the message (column 18, lines 17 through 40), and changing a format of the information data and the destination address data into another format corresponding to another type of network in accordance with the received instruction (column 6, line 66 through column 7, line 34, steps 1070 and 1072 in Fig. 11C, and column 19, lines 10 through 37).

Regarding *claim 59*, Bloomfield discloses a computer program (column 6, lines 18 through 27) for a communication apparatus (fax server 110) comprising a code means for connecting various types of networks which have unique formats and addresses, respectively (see Fig. 1, data network 114 and public telephone network 108, column 4, lines 5 through 67),

code means for receiving information data (fax-to-E-mail command, fax interface device ID, E-mail destination address, and check sum) with destination address data from a transmitting source via the networks (steps 1032 through 1038 in Fig. 11A, column 17, lines 53 through 63), code means for returning a message in response to a request from the transmitting source via the networks (column 18, lines 7 through 56), code means for receiving an instruction generated based on the message (column 18, lines 17 through 40), and code means for changing a format of the information data and the destination address data into another format corresponding to another type of network in accordance with the received instruction (column 6, line 66 through column 7, line 34, steps 1070 and 1072 in Fig. 11C, and column 19, lines 10 through 37).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

13. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

14. **Claims 11, 12, 23, 24, 34, and 35** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bloomfield (U.S. Patent Number 6,025,931) in view of Kulakowski (WIPO Publication Number WO 97/10668, cited in the Office action dated 9/25/00).

Regarding *claims 11, 23, and 34*, Bloomfield discloses the apparatus, method, and medium discussed above in claims 9, 21, and 26, respectfully, but fails to specifically teach that the protocol signal of the facsimile communication protocol is a subaddress signal or selective polling signal of the T.30 recommendation. Kulakowski discloses an apparatus having transfer

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destination information being received by a protocol signal of a facsimile communication protocol (page 12, lines 5 through 32), and further teaches that the protocol signal of the facsimile communication protocol is a subaddress signal or selective polling signal of the T.30 recommendation (page 12, lines 14 through 29, and page 16, lines 28 through 33). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Kulakowski's teachings in Bloomfield's system. Bloomfield's system would easily be modified to incorporate Kulakowski's teachings, as Bloomfield's system would conform to industry standards of the T.30 recommendation, as recognized by Kulakowski.

Regarding *claims 12, 24, and 35*, Bloomfield discloses the apparatus, method, and medium discussed above in claims 10, 22, and 26, respectfully, but fails to specifically teach that the facsimile communication protocol is a selective polling signal of the T.30 recommendation. Kulakowski discloses an apparatus having information being received by a protocol signal of a facsimile communication protocol (page 12, lines 5 through 32), and further teaches that the protocol signal of the facsimile communication protocol is a subaddress signal or selective polling signal of the T.30 recommendation (page 12, lines 14 through 29, and page 16, lines 28 through 33). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Kulakowski's teachings in Bloomfield's system. Bloomfield's system would easily be modified to incorporate Kulakowski's teachings, as Bloomfield's system would conform to industry standards of the T.30 recommendation, as recognized by Kulakowski.

15. **Claims 44 and 48** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bloomfield (U.S. Patent Number 6,025,931) in view of Houghton *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 6,009,153).

Regarding *claims 44 and 48*, Bloomfield discloses the apparatus discussed above in claims 43 and 47, and further teaches that the apparatus (fax-server 110) has a function of playing voice messages (column 5, line 54 through column 6, line 13), but fails to specifically teach if the means for returning returns the message as voice guidance information. Houghton discloses a communication apparatus (facsimile 5) comprising a means (TLI 125, column 5, lines 48 through 61) for connecting various types of networks which have unique formats and addresses (see Fig. 1, PSTN and Internet, as well as “a cellular or PCS network, or a combination of wireless and wired telephone networks” as read in column 3, lines 38 through 45), means for receiving information data with destination address data from a transmitting source (step 210 in Fig. 3, column 6, lines 37 through 43, and column 9, lines 35 through 41), means for returning a message in response to a request from the transmitting source via the networks (step 215 in Fig. 3, column 6, lines 41 through 54), and means for receiving an instruction generated based on the message (step 220 in Fig. 3, column 6, lines 55 through 60). Further, Houghton teaches that the means for returning returns the message as voice guidance information (column 6, lines 37 through 54). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Houghton’s teachings in Bloomfield’s system. Bloomfield’s system would easily be modified with the addition of Houghton’s teachings, as the systems share cumulative features, being additive in nature.

Citation of Pertinent Prior Art

16. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Sekiguchi (U.S. Patent Number 6,185,604) claims a communication device which exchanges facsimile information to electronic mail information;

Sekiguchi et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,141,695) claims a communication device which receives electronic mail information.

Conclusion

17. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

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18. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joe Pokrzywa whose telephone number is (703) 305-0146. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on (703) 305-4712. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9314 for regular communications and (703) 872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Joseph R. Pokrzywa
Examiner
Art Unit 2622

jrp
June 15, 2001


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